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Martha's Vineyard is experiencing an increase in the number of cars and bicycles that are used on the island. The West Tisbury Complete Streets Committee (under the auspices of the Board of Selectmen) is committed to increasing the safety on our roads for pedestrians, bicyclists, bus riders and drivers, however, the main arteries of our town are state owned roads.

In June of 2017, the West Tisbury Board of Selectmen sent a formal request to Mass DOT (see letter attached here) identifying and prioritizing the projects that we need to have completed on those state roads. A few of the project were completed in the past four years but many remain an unaddressed priority.

What follows is the current list of projects in order of priority. Please let us know when we might expect to see these projects undertaken.

1. Crosswalks & Signage

- Edgartown/West Tisbury Road: at Brandy Brow to the Mill Pond just east of the triangle is a well-used walkway into town center.
- State Road at the intersection of Scotchman's Lane/ Panhandle Road. At this corner, the Agricultural Hall attracts many visitors. There have been four car accidents at this intersection in the past two years.
- Edgartown/West Tisbury Road from the Shared Use Path around the State Forest to Waldron Bottom Road there is a bicycle traffic to the Long Point Beach.

2. Speed limit reduction

- State Road at the intersection of Scotchman's Lane and Panhandle Road as described above. Lowering the speed limit from its current 40 mph to 25 mph will help to reduce the danger to pedestrians, bus riders and bikers crossing.
- South Road from the end of the village of West Tisbury to the border with Chilmark. That stretch of road would be safer with a consistent 25 mph speed limit.
- State Road between Heather Gardens (just east of Lambert's Cove Road) and the Mill Brook bridge. Given the increased traffic, 30 mph is a safer speed limit for this entire length of road.
- Edgartown Road from the West Tisbury town center to past New Lane requires a 25 mph speed zone.

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3. Road surfaces

- Although we would like to have the bridge widened in North Tisbury at Mill Brook to provide wider lanes in both directions, we are hesitant to request this unless we can work collaboratively with you to achieve a satisfactory solution that includes the following:
 - The plan should be in keeping with the town's rural nature
 - There should be a shared use path on both sides of the bridge
 - Caution signs should be installed warning traffic to slow down (we'd like this now).
- Create a Shared Use Path or bicycle path from Tisbury to the village of West Tisbury. There needs to be a safe route to (on road and/or off road) to bicycle to the stores and ferry in Tisbury.
- Create a 2' shoulder past fog line all along State/South Road and other state roads with shoulders level to the surrounding ground.
- Create shoulder past the fog line from the Hillside Farm to Polly Hill Arboretum: the area includes curves in the road and a hill creating a threat to bicycle safety.

The residents/taxpayers of and visitors to Martha's Vineyard deserve to have these projects on the "getting it done" list at Mass DOT for 2021/2022. Please respond to this letter with the details of when and how Mass DOT intends to address these concerns and requests.

Signatures

Board of Selectmen

Complete Streets Committee

State Representative

State Senator

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